



NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
EASTERN MOUNTAIN REGIONAL FIELD OFFICE
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USDA TO MEASURE SMALL GRAIN PRODUCTION

RICHMOND, Va. – During the first two weeks of September, growers of small grains around the country will receive survey forms from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS). The agency is taking a comprehensive look into the 2016 production and supply of small grains, which include wheat, barley and rye for Virginia.

"We will contact 1,076 producers in Virginia to accurately measure 2016 acreage, yield, and production for small grains," said David Knopf, director of the NASS Eastern Mountain Regional Office, which serves Virginia. "The data collected from this survey will also help set small grain acreage and production estimates at the county level."

NASS will contact Virginia survey participants to gather information on their 2016 production and the quantities of winter wheat, barley and rye stored on-farm.

"The county yield estimates we establish from this survey are used by other USDA agencies, such as Farm Service and Risk Management Agencies," said Herman Ellison, Virginia state statistician. "FSA's Agricultural Risk Coverage (ARC), Price Loss Coverage (PLC), County Loan Rates, Loan Repayment Rates, and its disaster assistance program calculations all integrate the data from this survey. RMA uses the information for its Area Risk Protection Insurance Plan, establishment of transitional yields, and determining when to make crop loss insurance payments."

As an alternative to mailing the survey back and to help save both time and money, growers will have the option to respond to the survey securely online. Farmers who have not responded by Aug. 30, may receive a phone call from a NASS representative who will help them fill out the survey form.

NASS safeguards the privacy of all respondents and publishes only aggregate data, ensuring that no individual operation or producer can be identified.

Survey results will be published in several reports, including the annual *Small Grains Summary* and the quarterly *Grain Stocks* report, both to be released on September 30. These and all NASS reports are available online at www.nass.usda.gov. For more information, call the NASS Virginia Field Office at 1-800-772-0670.

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NASS provides accurate, timely, and useful statistics in service to U.S. agriculture. We invite you to provide occasional feedback on our products and services. Sign up at <http://usda.mannlib.cornell.edu/subscriptions> and look for "NASS Data User Community."

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